

-continued

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We claim:

1. An aptamer-based sensor comprising an aptamer, the aptamer comprising a nucleic acid sequence selected from i) SEQ ID No: 9, ii) SEQ ID No: 24 iii) SEQ ID No: 25, and iv) sequence sharing at least 95% identity with SEQ ID No: 9, 24 or 25.

2. The aptamer-based sensor according to claim 1, the aptamer being modified by addition of a reporter label.

3. The aptamer-based sensor according to claim 2, the reporter label being a fluorescent dye, electroactive tag, a gold nanoparticle (AuNP), or a fluorescent dye and quencher pair.

4. The aptamer-based sensor according to claim 1, the aptamer comprising a nucleic acid sequence selected from SEQ ID Nos: 3-7.

5. The aptamer-based sensor according to claim 1, the aptamer having a maximal length of 73 nucleotides.

6. The aptamer-based sensor according to claim 1, the aptamer having 47 nucleotides.

7. A method for detecting a natural or synthetic cannabinoid in a sample comprising contacting the sample with the aptamer-based sensor of claim 1, and detecting the natural or synthetic cannabinoid in the sample, the detection of the natural or synthetic cannabinoid comprising measuring a signal generated upon binding of the natural or synthetic cannabinoid to the aptamer-based sensor, the signal being a change in absorbance or fluorescence intensity.

8. The method according to claim 7, the sample being a biological sample or an environmental sample.

9. The method according to claim 8, the biological sample being selected from blood, plasma, urine, tears, and saliva.

10. The method according to claim 7, the natural cannabinoid being THC, metabolite thereof, cannabinol (CBN) or tetrahydrocannabinol (THCV).

11. The method according to claim 7, the synthetic cannabinoid being XLR-11 or UR-144.

12. A method for detecting THC and/or a metabolite thereof in a sample comprising contacting the sample with the aptamer-based sensor, the aptamer-based sensor comprising a aptamer that comprises SEQ ID No: 9 or a sequence sharing at least 95% identity with SEQ ID No: 9, and detecting THC and/or a metabolite thereof in the sample.

13. The method according to claim 12, the detection comprising measuring an absorbance or fluorescence intensity change upon binding of THC and/or a metabolite thereof to the aptamer, or observing a color change by the naked eye.

14. The method according to claim 12, the aptamer comprising a nucleic acid sequence selected from SEQ ID Nos: 3, 6 and 9.

15. The method according to claim 12, the aptamer-based sensor further comprising a complementary nucleic acid sequence, the complementary nucleic acid sequence comprising SEQ ID No: 8.

16. A method for detecting XLR-11 and/or UR-144 in a sample comprising contacting the sample with the aptamer-based sensor, the aptamer-based sensor comprising a aptamer that comprises a nucleic acid sequence selected from SEQ ID Nos: 24-25 and a sequences sharing at least 95% identity with SEQ ID No: 24 or 25, and detecting XLR-11 and/or UR-144 in the sample, the detection comprising measuring a signal generated upon binding of XLR-11 and/or UR-144 to the aptamer, the signal being a change in absorbance or fluorescence intensity.

17. The method according to claim 16, the aptamer comprising a nucleic acid sequence selected from SEQ ID Nos: 4-5 and 7.

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